

December 6, 2016

Councilmember Joe Buscaino 13th Council District Councilmember Curren Price 9th Council District 200 N. Spring Street, Room 480 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: CF 13-1493 - Sidewalk Vending Policy

Dear Councilmembers,

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) commends your hard work on developing a comprehensive sidewalk vending policy proposal that takes into account the well-being of existing brick and mortar businesses. The proposed limit of two vendors per block is a welcome policy that prevents vendors from interfering with storefronts. Requiring the permission of an adjacent property owner or business is a key provision in this proposal that we applaud you for including. Ensuring vendors pay their fair share in taxes and contribute to the cost of Business Improvement Districts is a thoughtful approach in fostering a level playing field. VICA would like to offer insight on how the driving motives behind these components of the policy can be strengthened.

In order to properly limit the number of vendors per block, it is necessary to implement a cap on the number of permits issued. This will prevent permitted vendors from contesting multiple locations and ensure city staff is not overburdened with a disproportionate amount of permitted vendors to assist and regulate.

The proposed "special vending districts" are unclear. VICA remains concerned as to how these districts will impact businesses and neighborhoods. The policy should be clear that under no circumstance should the consent of an adjacent property owner or business be overruled by a special vending district. The ability to limit or eliminate vending in a district is not feasible if communities are required to have proven public safety or health concerns. If 20 percent of property owners or businesses in a district decide to reduce or eliminate vending, they should be allowed to do so without additional onerous requirements. Neighborhoods deserve the right to protect the quality and commerce of their sidewalks.

The city is in the process of handing the responsibility of sidewalk repairs to property owners and businesses. Since vendors will be the primary beneficiaries of sidewalks in the city, it is only fair they pay their fair share in funding sidewalk repairs.

It is important the city allocate additional staff to oversee the regulation and enforcement of sidewalk vending. Proper enforcement is needed to carry out the vision you have modeled for a comprehensive sidewalk vending policy. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Kevin Tamaki VICA Chairman

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Stuart Waldman VICA President

CC: Honorable Members of the City Council

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